



an insider look at city hall

CITYWATCH

citywide edition

October 6, 2005
Volume 2 Issue 14
Special: Anniversary

CityWatch Today—October begins the third year of publication for the “new” CityWatch.

For those of you who are new to CityWatch ... Welcome. CityWatch exists to monitor the political business of City Hall, and other government agencies, to monitor the progress of the empowerment of LA’s neighborhoods and to encourage grass roots civic engagement.

CityWatch is an electronic journal of observations, analysis and perspectives ... with a side plate of by ideas and information ... all viewed and presented from the POV of LA’s myriad grass roots neighborhoods engaged in the ongoing struggle for empowerment.

We hope you find it useful, informative and provocative.

For those of you who have been with us for the two years past, we thank you for your support and your input. Without which we could not have grown from the 256 email addresses of two years ago to the better than 60,000 subscribers of today.

---Editor

Say What?

“Thank you and your staff for information that otherwise would not see the light of day.

A great service to Neighborhood Councils.”

*--Rich Waters, President
PICO NC*

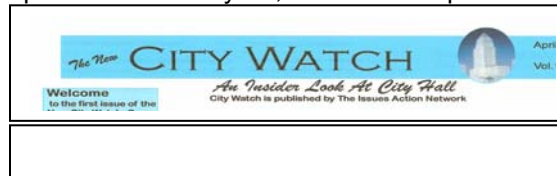


CityWatch Special: Anniversary

CityWatch Celebrates Birthday Looking to the Future

By Ken Draper

“Never look back,” baseball old-timer Satchel Paige was to have said, “somebody may be gaining on you.” So, as this incarnation of CityWatch spins into its third year, most of this space will be devoted to the future.

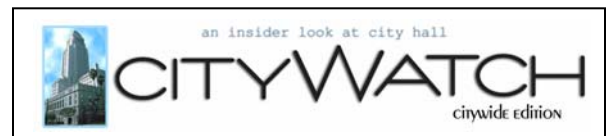


This is an exciting time to be monitoring the growth of Neighborhood Councils and providing perspective on the political issues that set their

agenda. A new Mayor has energized City Hall. A new Chairman has adjusted the direction and the rhythm of the Education and Neighborhoods Committee. New faces, attitudes and visions will change the shape of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. And there is no question, the new players will impact NCs.

NC Challenges Ahead

The landscape just ahead is strewn with critical challenges for Neighborhood Councils: An evaluation of the NC system by a mandated Review Commission to be appointed by the Mayor and the City Council; an effort by NCs to create and manage their own NC Congress; An attempt to create an NC Emergency Preparedness Network and make it a significant part of the City’s EP Program; Approval of the NC City Council File Number



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proposal; Coping with the loss of institutional memory as elections and term limits bring hundreds of new faces to NC boards across the city. That’s a partial list.

Oldies but Goodies

Everything old is new again. Not just true for Broadway’s Bob Fosse, true also for LA politics. Two years ago, in those first issues of the new CityWatch, headline subjects included the LA Airport expansion, a possible tax for police, fiscally sound city budgets, Community Impact Statements, NCs with troubled elections and legislation to end lap dancing at adult clubs. Still unresolved issues that will share tomorrow’s headlines as well.

LA’s political future fascinates. CityWatch will be there with you to observe it’s unfolding, to report on the empowerment of her neighborhoods and, as promised, to encourage grass roots civic engagement through information, ideas, discussion and perspective. Year three commences. ■

City Hall: We’ve Got You Covered
CITYWATCH

The Birth of CityWatch

CityWatch was the inspiration of founder Mark Siegel, a long-time activist and political consultant. These were the pre-Charter years and Siegel was monitoring the work of the Charter Commissions. He called his reports Charter Watch. Neighborhood Councils were born when the Charter was approved in 1999 and Siegel's reports became City Watch. He also helped found the Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils at the time.

Siegel took a sabbatical from publishing in 2000 and with a new partner and editor rehabilitated his highly respected CityWatch in September of 2003. The rest, as they say, is somewhat recent history.

At its rebirth, CityWatch was published bi-weekly to an email list of a few hundred. Today, it is published weekly and reaches more than 60,000 electronic subscribers. CityWatch has become CityWatch Media Group and has ventured into television production and neighborhood non-political print publications.

The purpose of CityWatch remains unchanged: To hold City Hall accountable and to encourage grass roots civic engagement. ■

CITYWATCH The E-Newsletter for LA's NC's

October 6, 2005
Volume 3 Issue 14s
Special Issue

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CITYWATCH is published to encourage grassroots civic engagement through information, ideas and perspective.

CITYWATCH the E-Newsletter is published weekly on Thursdays. Share it with your Neighborhood Council and other activists.

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CITYWATCH

Getting here ...

From there ...



September, 2003
To
September, 2005

Eight Reasons Why This is a Critical Year for LA's Neighborhood Councils

Neighborhood Councils are no longer the new kids on the political block. The novelty is wearing off. The excuse that NC's are new and feeling their way has long since lost its validity. It was six years ago last June that the Charter was voter approved and four years ago next December that the City's first Neighborhood Council was certified. The LA Neighborhood Council system now has a history. There are stakeholders being elected to boards today who are too 'young' to remember when Neighborhood Councils were a cause. Time flies when you're having a rebellion!

1. Evaluation Commission-The Charter provides a lot of need still to help with the empowerment of LA's neighborhoods. Participation is Continued on Page 6. See "Perspective"

Next in CityWatch

- **LA's Downtown is Experiencing a Rebirth:**
Why should the folks in Encino be happy?
...
- **The Mayor's First 100 Days:**
From NC POV
...
- **Should USC be in the NC MOU Business?**
The discussion continues.
...
- **The 2006 NC Review Commission:**
Will NCs have a voice in the process?
...
- **An NC Emergency Preparedness Network:**
Good for the City. Good for NCs. Will it ever happen?
...
- **NCs Looking to Manage Own Congress:**
A status report.
...
- **Any Proactive Genes in the NC DNA?**
A Perspective.
...
- **NCs Want the Right to Council File #'s:**
A progress report.

**In CityWatch on October 13 ...
ON A COMPUTER NEAR YOU!**

CITYWATCH DayPlanner

City Council
October 11, 12, 14 (10 a.m.)

Education &
Neighborhoods
Wed, October 12 (2 p.m.)
City Hall (Room 1060)
*NC Review Commission
discussion continues*

LA NC Congress
Working Group
Saturday, October 15
Visit www.LANCCongress.org for
location/time

MOM DIED.
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NOW?

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